

World and Nation

Police fight to control Chilean mourners

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Riot police fired tear gas and water cannons Wednesday to disperse an estimated 2,000 mourners marching behind the casket of a teen-ager burned to death during an anti-government demonstration last week.

Witnesses said the 19-year-old victim had been set on fire by an army patrol, and Chile's Human Rights Commission reported a second torching Wednesday.

Commission spokesman Jorge del Picoin said men in civilian clothes seized Mario Antonio Araya Marchant late Tuesday in Valparaiso, drove him to suburban Renaca, soaked him with flammable liquid and set him afire. Picoin said the victim was in serious condition at a hospital. Authorities declined comment.

"Few times in Chile has there been a crime so cruel," Maximo Pacheco, vice president of the rights commis-

sion, said in a speech. "A culture of death is being imposed on us. If this crime is covered up or denied, it will lead to a spiral of violence and more crimes." In Santiago, mourners scattered by police regrouped in the General Cemetery to bury Rodrigo Rojas de Negri. They shouted slogans during the ceremony against the military government of President Augusto Pinochet.

Rojas, a freelance photographer,

returned to Chile last month, a decade after he moved to the Washington, D.C., area with his mother, an exiled supporter of the leftist government that Pinochet toppled in a 1973 coup.

Several witnesses said an army patrol seized Rojas and an 18-year-old woman July 9 during a demonstration in the capital and set them afire. Rojas died Sunday from burns over two-thirds of his body. The woman is in grave condition.

Wednesday's events were viewed by U.S. Ambassador Harry G. Barnes Jr. and four European diplomats.

They saw police spray water and fire tear gas to keep the crowd from marching to the cemetery. After three police charges over a square, eight blocks, only a few vehicles remained in the cortege.

Some AIDS-infected blood continues to go undetected

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chances of contracting AIDS through blood transfusions are very remote, but small amounts of infected blood continue to escape detection and other precautions should be emphasized, an expert panel said Wednesday.

Tests to screen blood supplies for evidence of AIDS — acquired immune deficiency syndrome — are improving rapidly, but developing faster, more accurate checks should get top priority, said the group convened by the National Institutes of Health to re-examine blood screening.

After meeting for three days and considering what is known about AIDS testing, the panel endorsed the practice of patients having their own blood banked for anticipated surgery and people being notified if

they have questionable AIDS test results.

Dr. Thomas C. Chalmers of Mount Sinai Medical School in New York, the conference chairman, said banking one's own blood for an immediate need is a good idea for reasons other than AIDS prevention, such as preventing allergic reactions.

But Chalmers said the panel did not endorse so-called directed donations, whereby a person selects someone else to donate blood for him, because it has not been proven safer than blood from normal channels. And having blood stored for no specific reason can be wasteful and also should be discouraged, he said.

Dr. Lincoln E. Moses, a panelist and professor of statistics at Stanford University Medical School, said test results indicate one potential

blood donor in 1,000 may carry the AIDS virus.

Because an estimated 99 percent of these donors are excluded by high-risk profiles or screening tests, it is likely 120 units of AIDS-infected blood gets into national supplies each year out of 12 million donations, Moses estimated.

People with confirmed positive tests — positive antibody tests backed up with a second, more precise test — traditionally have been told the results and discouraged from giving blood.

However, those with ambiguous results, such as being positive on one test and negative on another, often have not been informed by blood collecting services.

Tanker explosion emits toxic fumes

MIAMISBURG, Ohio (AP) — A derailed railroad tank car that had spewed toxic fumes and forced thousands of residents to flee exploded Wednesday evening, forcing renewed evacuations and causing injuries in the path of the fumes, authorities said.

The number or extent of the injuries were not immediately known.

The explosion occurred shortly after 6 p.m. as firefighters tried to put out white phosphorus that had reignited in the tanker. In addition, a nearby tank car carrying sulfur was burning, officials said.

Because fumes engulfed the wreckage, firefighters were pulled back from the scene, and the area was being drenched by unmanned pumps.

Plumes of toxic fumes headed toward a hospital and a shopping mall in the Dayton suburbs, and new evacuations were ordered in the towns of Miamisburg and West Carrollton, where residents fled the derailment Tuesday, as well as in the communities of Morain and Miami Township.

By 7:30 p.m., a chemical cloud three miles wide at its widest point

had spread at least five miles.

Flames flared up again Wednesday when authorities raised the tanker and its cargo of volatile white phosphorous, came in contact with the air. The chemical ignites at 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

About 17,500 people evacuated their homes Tuesday, and some had spent 12 hours in evacuation shelters. Some had begun to return to their homes Wednesday, although officials had not encouraged people to go back and a state of emergency was in effect.

Sex ed study shows drop in pregnancies

BALTIMORE (AP) — Junior high and high school girls at city schools which participated in an experimental pregnancy prevention program were less likely to become pregnant and appear to have postponed their first sexual encounter, according to a Johns Hopkins University study.

"What it showed is that something can be done about the teen-age pregnancy problem," said Dr. Laurie Schwab Zabin, the principal investigator in the study, said Wednesday.

The three-year program involved 3,400 students in grades 7 through

12 from 1981-1984 and showed 30 percent decrease in pregnancies among girls in the two junior and senior high schools which participated in the program, Zabin said.

In the two schools that didn't have the program, there was a 58 percent increase in pregnancies during the same time, she said.

"This shows that such programs do not encourage students to become more sexually active but that they may actually postpone sex longer," Zabin said.

Preliminary results of the survey, reaching similar conclusions, were

first reported in November 1985.

The staff encouraged students to talk to their parents, Zabin said. Many who asked that their visits be confidential when they first came in, later said there was no need for the confidentiality since they did talk with their parents, she said.

Another interesting finding in the study was that junior high boys were just as likely as girls in their class to participate in the program, Zabin said. This shows that boys are concerned about the issue if reached at an early enough age, she said.

Study: Many 'SIDS' deaths caused by accidents

BOSTON (AP) — Many baby deaths attributed to the mysterious sudden infant death syndrome actually result from suffocation, over-bundling and other accidents that are caused by parents' poor judgment, a study concludes.

But a leading SIDS researcher cautioned that the study looked at cases that may not be typical of such deaths nationwide and said most babies who die from the syndrome show no signs of parental negligence.

The doctors investigated 26 instances of sudden infant death in

Brooklyn, N.Y., and found at least some evidence of accidental causes in all but two of them.

"What occurred in Brooklyn is probably characteristic of the problem nationwide," Dr. Millard Bass said. "It appears there are a lot of misdiagnoses being made."

His investigation turned up cases in which mothers apparently smothered their babies by rolling on them in their sleep. Babies also appeared to die from being placed too close to radiators at night or were asphyxiated by their bedding.

In an accompanying editorial, Dr.

Bradley T. Thach of St. Louis Children's Hospital said the cases might not be typical of crib deaths elsewhere, so "considerable caution is needed in making generalizations based on these data."

Dr. Frederick Mandell, vice president of the National Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Foundation and senior associate physician at Children's Hospital in Boston, said he feared the effect of the study.

"The impact of this kind of article on parents whose children have suddenly and unexpectedly died — and who have not asphyxiated their child

and whose children have not died of hypothermia — will be of great significance because all parents feel some guilt, that they have done something wrong," he said.

"In the grief reaction there are a lot of what only — if only we had not left the blanket in crib," he said. "But in fact it seems most of the babies who die show no evidence of negligence."

Mandell said previous studies refuted the findings of the Bass study.

Gayle Lloyd, spokeswoman for the national Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, said it is their

general policy not to comment on studies before their researchers have seen them.

When a seemingly healthy baby dies unexpectedly or without explanation, the cause of death is frequently attributed to sudden infant death syndrome, also known as SIDS or crib death. It is the most common cause of death among children between the first month and first year of life.

The study was directed by Bass, a forensic pathologist at the State University of New York.

World Briefs

Star's brother arrested on drug charge

LONDON (AP) — Narcotics officers arrested a brother of Boy George and three others Tuesday on charges they conspired to sell heroin to the rock star, police said.

The singer was being sought for questioning. Police would not comment on reports that Boy George, whose real name is George O'Dowd, was bound for the United States.

Charged with conspiracy to

supply heroin to Boy George were his brother Kevin O'Dowd, Anna Tinamaun, Steven Luben and Diane Feiner, police said. They said Luben and Feiner remained in custody.

David O'Dowd, another of Boy George's brothers, said in a television interview last week that the singer has been addicted to heroin for eight months. But Boy George and a third brother, Gerald O'Dowd, denied that.

South Africa lifts union meeting ban

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The government said Wednesday it had made a mistake, and lifted a two-day-old ban on union meetings a few hours after four black unions challenged it in court.

The Bureau for Information said the original ban on meetings by 33 organizations in the Johannesburg area "contained certain errors," and a revised order would be issued Thursday.

It said the new order would cover only Soweto, the huge black township outside Johannesburg, and would exclude all trade unions.

The unions filed court papers late Wednesday afternoon against the ban, issued under the nationwide state of emergency imposed June 12, saying its disruptive effects on contract negotiations could prompt national strikes.

Market rallies, halts Dow Jones slide

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market halted the slide of the past two sessions with a moderate rally Wednesday, aided by declining interest rates.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials, which had tumbled 80.14 points Monday and Tuesday, rose 5.34 to 1,826.07.

Volume on the New York Stock Exchange came to 142.88 million shares, down from 174.06

million the day before.

Early in the session and again near the close, stocks benefited from flurries of buying by traders apparently shopping for "bargains" after the market's sharp drop since the start of the week.

But analysts said the stock market was still feeling the effects of the jolt of Monday's record-setting drop and further selling on Tuesday.

Aviators begin 4½-day plane test flight

MOJAVE, Calif. (AP) — The Voyager, an experimental aircraft designed to circle the globe without refueling, was forced to land Wednesday at a coastal Air Force base, abruptly ending a crucial test flight.

"The plane landed safely," said Air Force Sgt. Fred Bolinger, a spokesman at Vandenberg Air Force Base, where the Voyager landed. The base is about 130 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles.

The plane was airborne for about seven hours before it was

forced to land because of engine trouble, said Gary Fox, a Voyager mechanic.

Dick Rutan and co-pilot Jeana Yeager took off in the experimental Voyager, with 110-foot plastic-and-carbon fiber wings — about as long as a Boeing 727's — on a desert runway in Mojave.

They had planned to fly repeated circles between Santa Barbara and San Francisco until a Sunday landing. The aircraft travels at 90 knots, or about 103 mph.

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Post Oak Mall 764-0616
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